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SENATE BILL 217

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

William E. Sharer

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; EXPANDING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR
A LOTTERY TUITION SCHOLARSHIP TO INCLUDE STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE
FROM OUT-OF-STATE HIGH SCHOOLS BECAUSE A PARENT IS ON ACTIVE
DUTY IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND STATIONED OUTSIDE OF
NEW MEXICO.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 21-1-4.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,
Chapter 71, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-1-4.3. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED-- CERTAIN
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. --

A. To the extent that funds are made available by
the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the boards of
regents of New Mexico state university, New Mexico institute of
mining and technology, eastern New Mexico university, western

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1 New Mexico university, the university of New Mexico, New Mexico
2 highlands university and northern New Mexico state school shall
3 award tuition scholarships for qualified resident students
4 attending their respective institutions and branches of those
5 institutions.

6 B. Except as authorized in Subsection C of this
7 section, the tuition scholarships authorized in this section
8 shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
9 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
10 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
11 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are accepted for
12 entrance to and attend one of the state educational
13 institutions set forth in this section or one of the branches
14 of those institutions. Each tuition scholarship shall be
15 awarded for up to four consecutive years beginning the second
16 semester of the recipient's first year of enrollment, provided
17 that the recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and
18 maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0
19 scale during his first semester of full-time enrollment.

20 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
21 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who,
22 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
23 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
24 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, attend a two-year
25 public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico and

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1 who, upon the completion of that curriculum or at the end of
2 two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to one of the post-
3 secondary state educational institutions set forth in this
4 section. Those students shall be eligible for a tuition
5 scholarship for two consecutive years, provided that those
6 students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade
7 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the
8 institution full time during the regular academic year.

9 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
10 section shall also apply to:

11 (1) full-time resident students who:

12 [~~(1)~~] (a) within one hundred twenty days
13 of completion of a high school curriculum at a public or
14 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a
15 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United States
16 armed forces; and

17 [~~(2)~~] (b) within one hundred twenty days
18 of completion of honorable service or medical discharge from
19 the service are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the
20 state educational institutions set forth in this section; and

21 (2) a full-time student who is a dependent of
22 a parent who is serving on active duty in the United States
23 armed forces outside of New Mexico, regardless of where the
24 student graduated from high school; provided that:

25 (a) the family can establish that, prior

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1 to the parent who is in the United States armed forces being
2 stationed outside of New Mexico, the family or parent resided
3 in New Mexico;

4 (b) the high school from which the
5 student graduated is accredited in the state in which it is
6 located or, if the school is located outside of the United
7 States, offered a course of study that is accredited or is
8 similar to accredited courses of study in the United States;
9 and

10 (c) immediately upon graduation or upon
11 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, the student is
12 accepted for entrance to and attends one of the state
13 educational institutions set forth in this section.

14 E. The commission on higher education shall prepare
15 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
16 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
17 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
18 to the board of regents of each institution to enable a uniform
19 availability of the resident student tuition scholarships. "